

Message Text

SECRET

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ORIGIN NODS-00

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DRAFTED BY E:CWROBINSON

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S/S - MR. ORTIZ

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USDEL SECRETARY IMMEDIATE

SECRET STATE 177240 TOSEC 080039

NODIS

CHEROKEE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ENRG, IR

SUBJECT: POSSIBLE MEETING WITH ANSARY

FOR THE SECRETARY FROM UNDER SECRETARY ROBINSON

1. ANSARY HAS INDICATED THAT HE COULD PROBABLY MEET WITH ME IN PARIS ON FRIDAY, AUGUST 1 OR SATURDAY, AUGUST 2. ALTHOUGH I HAVE RESERVATIONS ON THE ADVISABILITY OF THIS AS DISCUSSED BELOW, I COULD ARRANGE TO BE IN PARIS ON THESE DATES TO CONTINUE MY NEGOTIATIONS WITH ANSARY ON OUR BILATERAL ARRANGEMENT TO RESOLVE THE TWO REMAINING QUESTIONS:

A. LENGTH OF THE INTEREST FREE MORATORIUM, AND

B. CLARIFICATION OF IRAN'S OPTION TO TERMINATE THE AGREEMENT IF THEIR PRICES ON U.S. PURCHASES INCREASE MORE RAPIDLY THAN THE U.S. WHOLESALE PRICE INDEX, WHICH

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IS IMPORTANT ONLY TO PRESERVE A SYMMETRY WITH OUR

CANCELLATION OPTION ON OIL PRICE.

2. HOWEVER, FROM OUR DISCUSSION WITH GREENSPAN AND ZARB IT IS NOW APPARENT THAT WE WOULD REQUIRE CONGRESSIONAL CONSULTATION AND PROBABLY AUTHORIZATION FOR THIS AGREEMENT. THIS COULD CREATE DIFFICULT PROBLEMS WITH CONGRESS, PARTICULARLY WITH EFFORTS TO CONCLUDE A DOMESTIC ENERGY BILL NOW IN A DELICATE STAGE.

3. I HAD HOPED TO OBTAIN YOUR VIEWS ON THIS PRIOR TO YOUR DEPARTURE BUT AS THIS WAS NOT POSSIBLE, I FEEL THAT I SHOULD PROBABLY HOLD OFF ON MEETING WITH ANSARY PENDING A DISCUSSION WITH YOU WHEN YOU RETURN. THIS WOULD ALSO GIVE US AN OPPORTUNITY TO REVIEW THE POSSIBILITY OF AN OIL/GRAIN SWAP WITH THE SOVIETS WHICH COULD HAVE SOME BEARING ON OUR POSITION WITH IRAN.

4. I WILL DEFER REPLYING TO ANSARY UNTIL I KNOW YOUR WISHES BUT IN ANY EVENT I MUST GIVE HIM AN ANSWER BY TOMORROW, TUESDAY, LATEST. INGERSOLL

SECRET

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